

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to the Examiner's Final Action dated September 21, 2004 and pursuant to a telephonic conference between Examiner and Applicants' representative on October 18, 2004. Applicants have amended the claims by rewriting conditionally allowed claims in independent form and correcting grammatical and typographical errors found in other claims. No new matter has been added, and the amendments place the claims in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments to the claims. The discussion provided below reference the claims in their amended form.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

At paragraph 16 of the present Office Action, Claims 14-15, 17-23 and 25-28 are allowed. At paragraph 15 of the present Office Action, Examiner states that Claims 2-7 and 11-13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have rewritten Claim 2 in independent form incorporating all features of independent Claim 1 (now canceled). There are no intervening claims.

Claim 11 depends from Claim 10, which Applicants have rewritten in independent form and placed in condition for allowance by overcoming the double patenting rejection to which Claim 10 was subject. The conditionality on the allowance of Claims 11-13 is therefore removed.

As noted in the telephonic conference, the Final Action failed to address Claims 29 and 30. However since claim 29 depends on conditionally allowed Claim 7, and Claim 30 (now rewritten in independent form) recites features that Examiner has held to be allowable in other claims, both claims are also allowable.

With the above amendments, Applicants have placed all pending claims in condition for allowance by complying with Examiner's request and overcoming the rejections of other claims. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request Examiner remove the conditionality of the allowance and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

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DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION

At paragraph 3 of the present Office Action, Claims 1 and 8 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,625,660, Claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,728,873 and Claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,691,220. Additionally, at paragraph 5 of the present Office Action, Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claim 8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,691,220 and Claim 12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,691,220.

Claims 1 and 8 have been canceled rendering their respective rejections moot. With regards to Claims 9 and 10, Applicants submit herewith a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c). The filing of this terminal disclaimer overcomes the double patenting rejection of Claim 9 and 10 and places the claims in condition for allowance.

CLAIMS REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

At paragraph 7 of the present Office Action, Claims 1 and 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Morris, et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,286,095). At paragraph 11 of the present Office Action, Claims 1 and 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Yeager* (U.S. Patent No. 6,216,200).

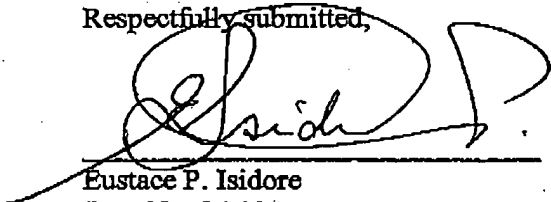
As stated above, Claims 1 and 8 have been canceled. Claim 9 now depends from allowable Claim 10, which has been rewritten as an independent claim. The present 102 rejections are thus rendered moot.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have diligently responded to the Office Action by rewriting conditionally allowed claims in independent form to put them in condition for allowance. Applicants have further filed terminal disclaimers to overcome the double patenting rejections. The claim amendments and filing of the terminal disclaimer overcome the claim objections/rejections and places all claims in condition for allowance. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all claims now pending.

Applicants further request the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney of record at 512.343.6116 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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